

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 21 JULY 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors West (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hyde, Hill, Horan, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates

PART ONE

18 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

18.1 The Mayor stated that the council's petition scheme provided that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at a Council meeting. He had been notified of four such petitions which had sufficient signatures to warrant a debate and therefore would call on the lead petitioner to present their petition before opening the matter up for debate.

(a) Reintroduce Scratch Card Voucher Parking

18.1 The Mayor invited Councillor Brown to present the petition calling on the Council to reintroduce scratch card voucher parking across the city.

18.2 Councillor Brown stated that the petition had received a large number of signatures which demonstrated the strength of feelings across the city. Many people did not have a mobile phone and found the current system to be confusing. It was also more difficult for the elderly, and when the weather was bad; the introduction of more debit/credit card machines would help, but some people still would have problems actually finding the machines. The current system also caused problems for shopkeepers, and it was felt that scratch card parking would be a cheaper solution.

18.3 Councillor Mitchell responded to the petition and stated that the previous scratch card parking system had covered a small area of the city until 2008 and had been stopped at that time as it was too expensive to operate, as well as mistakes which lead to fines. The reintroduction would also need to be accompanied by new signage that would be costly to provide. The Policy, Resources & Growth Committee had agreed, the previous

week, to retaining 150 cash machines as well 'pay by cash' points and well as an increased number of debit/credit card machines. It was highlighted that 92% of people now used bank cards.

- 18.4 Councillor Gibson moved the amendment on behalf of the Green Group and stated that there was concern some people were struggling and many residents would welcome the reintroduction of scratch card parking vouchers; the amendment sought to ensure the matter was properly considered.
- 18.5 Councillor Greenbaum formally seconded the amendment.
- 18.6 Councillor Bennett noted that the Conservative Group were supportive of the amendment.
- 18.7 In response to the debate Councillor Mitchell highlighted the recent awards that the Council had achieved for its parking services, and noted her faith in the contactless card payment system, as well as the advantage of having less money physically in machines on the streets which had historically been a target for thefts.
- 18.8 The Mayor then put the proposed amendment from the Green Group to the vote; this was **carried** by 30 votes to 23.
- 18.9 The Mayor then put the recommendation, as amended, to the vote and these were **carried** unanimously.
- 18.10 **RESOLVED:**
- 1) That the petition is noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on 11 October 2016.
 - 2) That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in response to this petition are requested to investigate difficulties faced by people without access to mobile phones and with mobility constraints (which are not necessarily sufficient to qualify for a blue badge) when using existing parking payment systems and recommend appropriate action to remedy any inequities of access to service for these groups.